

JOHN JR. AND MARY McDONALD HAMILTON FATHER



John Hamilton, Sr. was born in Saintsfield County of Down, Ireland, July 12, 1807, a son of Abel Hamilton and Mary Jamison. Married Mary Creighton, daughter of John and Myra Creighton on May 22 1827.

SON, JOHN JR.

John Hamilton Jr. was born August 6, 1834, at Hillsborough County of Down, Ireland a son of John and Mary Creighton Hamilton. Married Mary McDonald, October 1, 1854. She was born October 4, 1838, at Craford's Burn, County of Down, Ireland, a daughter of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald. Mary died at Buysville (Daniel) December 3, 1899. John married Janet (Jennett) Cochren, May 15, 1901. She died February 7, 1912, at Waterloo, Mont. John died April 9, 1917, at Heber.

Life History of John Jr. and Mary McDonald Hamilton

John Hamilton Sr. was raised in Hillsborough, County of Down and learned the blacksmith's trade with his father.

He and wife had three sons, William, Samuel and John Jr.

John Sr. and Mary Creighton had been brought up strictly in the Church of England and thought it was the true church until they heard Elder Theodore Curtis teach. They were baptized in November 1840.

John Sr., and Mary C. with their sons,

869

Samuel and John Jr. started for America December 31, 1842. They took a ship from Belfast to Liverpool. They stayed in Liverpool because of high winds until they could leave on January 16, 1843, in the charge of Lorenzo Snow on the ship Swanton of Bath with Capt. Davenport who was very kind to them. They landed at New Orleans on March 15, 1843, and from there went up the Mississippi and reached Nauvoo on April 12, 1843. He went to work as a blacksmith to sharpen tools for the stone cutters on August 15 after he had blacksmithed for the Prophet Joseph Smith for 31 days.

John Jr. was baptized in the Mississippi River by Elder Theodore Curtis in 1843. They remained in Nauvoo until 1847 when they were driven across the Mississippi River by the mob. From here John Sr. went to Missouri where he was engaged as a blacksmith until 1850. They saw all the persecution of the Prophet Joseph and the saints and when Joseph and Hyrum were taken by the posse.

The people in Missouri, where he was engaged as a blacksmith, when they learned he was planning to leave for the mountains, offered to fence a farm and build a house for him if he would remain. But he told them he had left his native land for his religion and that he was going to the valleys of the mountains in Salt Lake. The house was crowded with people for nearly a week to bid them goodbye.

They started the first of May 1850, and arrived in Salt Lake September 15, 1850. At that time George A. Smith was calling for volunteers to go south to make a settlement which was later called Parowan. Samuel volunteered to go, but went into the adobe yards in Salt Lake and made enough adobes to build a small house before leaving for Parowan. He arrived there January 16, 1851. John Sr. bought a city lot, built an adobe house and went to work at the Public Blacksmith shop. The rest of the family went to Parowan, the following fall.

July 24, 1853, the Walker War broke out and John Jr. served through the entire war. "We were ordered into Cedar from where we lived on Shirts Creek or what is now Hamilton Fort. We had to gather our crops by working all day and standing guard every other night, until the war which lasted two years, ended."

When but a little more than five years old, his wife, Mary McDonald, and brothers

and sisters came to America. They settled in Nauvoo in the spring of 1844, where they remained until the summer of 1847, when they moved to Bonaparte, Iowa.

In 1850 the McDonald family started for Utah, arriving in Salt Lake City in September of that year. The father died of cholera during the trip.

They went to Mountainville (now known as Alpine) Utah County, where they lived during the winter. In the spring of 1851 they moved to Springville. Here she met and fell in love with John Hamilton, a young man from Iron County. They were married and immediately after went to Cedar City.

In 1855 John was called to go to Las Vegas, Nevada for a year to work in the lead mines. The mines failed and he returned in six weeks.

In 1856 John and Mary moved to Shirts Creek, building a fort 96 feet square with walls three feet thick, there, and that same fall John was called to Salt Lake to take handcart brothers and sisters to Cedar City. In the fall of 1858 they returned to Springville and in 1859 moved to Provo Valley, where Mary was the second woman to enter the valley. In 1859 John was appointed sheriff of Provo Valley by Brigham Young, an office he held five years. He took up land and built the first rock house in Heber.

In 1864 the Black Hawk War broke out and John served in it as a major and was out on several expeditions. They had to go armed wherever they went.

In the spring of 1868, the grasshoppers devoured their crops so John took a four mule team and made a trip to Laramie, Wyo., for freight. When he returned in the fall he worked for the U.P. Railroad in Echo Canyon a month and then with his family, went to visit his parents at Hamilton's Fort. They urged him to move back, which they did.

In 1869 they adopted an Indian girl, Anna Mennorow, who was born October 10, 1867, they obtained her in exchange for a horse.

In 1870 John had a contract to haul the U.S. mail from Cedar City to St. George twice a week, later three times a week until 1874. He built a large brick house and devoted his time to farming and teaming.

In 1891 they returned to Heber where John bought a farm at Buysville where they resided until Mary died December 3, 1899. In 1892, John was ordained a High Priest by Apostle Francis M. Lyman. Same year

John Hamilton 871

was made first counselor to William McGee, presiding elder. Later he was set apart as ward clerk by F. M. Lyman.

John visited a son at Hamilton Fort and Idaho, returning to Heber in 1901. He visited around with his children in Utah, Idaho and Montana and then came to spend his last days with his daughter Mrs. George (Sarah) McDonald at Heber.

Funeral services for John were held in the Second Ward. The Indian War veterans attended the services in a body, carrying the flag. Counselor Crook took charge of the service. The Second Ward choir rendered musical selections. J. C. McDonald gave the opening prayer. R. S. Duke, J. R. Murdock, E. D. Clyde and Bishop Joseph Rasband eulogized their dead friend. Closing prayer was by Henry L. McMullin.

At Daniel, John had a small store at his residence which stood on an acre on the T. H. Jones farm, just over the fence east of the John P. Anderson farm. His first place was on what is the Oaks farm. He also brought molasses from the Utah's Dixie to sell.

Mary and John were the parents of twelve children:

John Creighton, James McDonald, Abel Samuel, Mary Lovina Jane, Margaret Francis, Emma Elizabeth, Rachel Jamerson, Joseph Layson, Anna Mennorow, Indian girl.